

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A recyclable image-recording medium comprising:
a base layer;
a surface layer comprising a water-swelling resin, the surface layer allowing printed materials formed thereon to be separated upon application of an aqueous solvent, in which the surface of the image-recording medium has a portion that is not covered with the surface layer, wherein
the water swelling resin comprises a water-soluble resin which has been cross-linked to the extent that the layer swells when contacted with an aqueous solvent, thereby loosening the bond between an image present on the surface layer and said layer and allowing the image to be removed.

12. (Original) The image-recording medium of claim 11, wherein the base layer is exposed at the portion that is not covered with the surface layer.

Claims 13-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The image-recording medium of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 11, wherein an image is present on the surface layer and is removable when the surface layer is swelled by contact with an aqueous solvent, and wherein an image not so removable is present on the surface of the base layer that is not covered with the surface layer.

20. (New) The image-recording medium of claim 11, wherein the surface layer contains a surface active agent.

21. (New) The image-recording medium of claim 11, wherein the surface layer contains inorganic fine particles.

22. (New) The image-recording medium of claim 11, wherein the surface layer contains a surface active agent and inorganic fine particles.

23. (New) The image-recording medium of claim 11, wherein the base layer is a plastic film.

24. (New) The image-recording medium of claim 11, wherein a cross-linking agent is added to the surface layer in an amount of 0.5 to 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the resin.

25. (New) The image-recording medium of claim 20, wherein the surface active agent is added in an amount ranging from not less than 0.1% to not more than 20% with respect to the resin.

26. (New) The image-recording medium of claim 21, wherein the inorganic fine particles are added in an amount ranging from 0.5 to 200 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-soluble resin.

27. (New) The image-recording medium of claim 11, wherein the surface layer contains a surface active agent and inorganic fine particles, the surface active agent being present in an amount ranging from not less than 0.1% to not more than 20% with respect to the resin, and the inorganic fine particles being present in an amount ranging from 0.5 to 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the resin.